

Sp 3611  
PATENT



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
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Inell Malone 11/09/1999  
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487  
11-15-99

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Hirshi Nemoto  
Serial No. : 09/196,029  
Filing Date : November 19, 1998  
Title : HOUSING ASSEMBLY FOR AN AIR BAG  
AND VEHICLE HORN SWITCH  
Art Unit : 3611  
Examiner : P. Dickson  
Attorney Docket : TRW(VSSIM)-2449RE  
Cleveland, OH 44114-1400  
November 9, 1999

**BOX IDS**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending application, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for pending U.S. applications. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth below.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed  
(one must be checked):

- (a) ☐ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National stage.
- (b) ☐ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) ☒ After the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a Notice of Allowance.
  - 1) ☒ A certification is given below, or
  - 2) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$240.00) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for consideration of this statement, or
  - 3) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
- (d) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.

Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below:

- 1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) \$130.00 or
- 2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

**(A duplicate of this Petition is attached)**

4. Certification (if applicable)

- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart PCT application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement. A copy of the EPO Search Report is enclosed.
- (b) ☒ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making

reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency fees, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

**CONCISE EXPLANATION**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Relevance</u></b>
Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 5-16756 (05016756 A)	This publication shows membrane switches 28 and 31 having slots or long holes 28a and 31a, 31b formed therein. Each of the membrane switches can be bent along the long holes. The membrane switches are adapted to be assembled in an air bag cover mountable onto an air bag assembly. In this publication the front cover 18 covering the membrane switch is made of leather and the rear cover 17 is made of plastic material such as polyurethane, polypropylene.
Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 6-92196 (06092196 A)	This publication shows a technique of making a pad body 13 of an air bag cover of thermoplastic elastomer. The publication also shows a generally H-shaped tear pattern which is defined by an H-shaped unfolding groove part 19 as shown in Fig. 3.
Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 7-40838	This publication shows a structure for mounting a back panel 20 to a cover 10. Between the back panel and the cover a hone switch 18 is disposed. The structure comprises a plurality of pins extending backward of the cover 10. The pin is inserted into a respective hole 22 formed in the back panel. In this mounting structure no hole is formed in the hone switch 8.
Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. 4-5171	This publication shows an air gag device in which membrane switches are disposed between an outside member 21 of a pad portion 2 and an inner member 27 thereof and in which first electrodes 51a and 51b are formed with a plurality holes 52a, 52b into which pins 29a, 29b formed on the inner member 27 are inserted.

Japanese Laid-Open  
Utility Model Publication  
No. 5-10124

This publication shows a pad for a steering wheel which is equipped with an air bag. The pad includes a plastic cover in which a membrane switch 27, 28 or 29 is embedded. Each membrane switch has a plurality of slot 27a, 28a or hole 29a which are lined up along a straight tear line 20. (Translation Enclosed)

Japanese Laid-Open  
Utility Model Publication  
No. 7-5980

This publication discloses an air bag device with a hone switch, wherein a membrane switch 16 is disposed between an air bag cover 11 and a back plate 17 fixed to the air bag cover, and wherein the air bag cover is formed with a plurality of engaging projections 18 which are inserted into holes 27 formed in the back plate 17. The membrane switch 16 is formed with holes 24 which are adapted to be aligned with holes 22 formed in the air bag cover 11 and holes 28 formed in the back plate 17 and to receive bolts 23. The air bag cover is made of thermoplastic elastomeric resin or polyurethane foam material.

Japanese Laid-Open  
Utility Model Publication  
No. 7-11480

This publication discloses a steering wheel which is equipped with an air bag device. The air bag device comprises a cover body 33 made of synthetic resin and having an upper plate 34; a back plate; and a hone switch 40 disposed between the upper plate and the back plate. A generally H-shaped tear line 38 is formed on the cover body. The tear line 38 comprises a central tear line 38a and side tear lines 38b.

Respectfully submitted,



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